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OUTSIDE READING IN THE EUGENE HIGH SCHOOL

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The purpose of this article is not to suggest a prescribed reading-course, but to show how one school is encouraging its pupils to read more and better books by giving credit for work done outside of class requirements. In view of the fact that students here have been inclined to scatter their work and to elect semester subjects, the number of credits required for graduation has been raised to 17, or 85 hours. This allows credit to be given for outside music, athletics, dramatics, military drill, etc., to a maximum of 2 credits or 10 hours. In order to make it possible for those who have no interest in any of the above-mentioned activities to make the added 5 hours, an "Outside Reading" course has been opened under the direction of the English department.

The head of the department asked teachers of other subjects to suggest books from their departments, and thus he secured a varied list from which he required each pupil to select a certain number. The total list contained about three hundred books, nearly one-third of which were on special subjects which would not interest those outside that particular department, as for instance books on pedagogy, books for the students taking the normal course and for those studying domestic arts. Care also had to be taken to see that no book was given if it came under the required reading-list for a regular English class. The students were allowed to offer books not on the list, but not many did so. A maximum of one hour per semester is allowed in credit and for this the student must read from four to seven books, according to the nature of the material he selects. Each student must keep a notebook ("Reading Notes," published by Ginn & Co.) and at the end of the semester will make an oral report.

At present 53 students, or about 9 per cent of the total number in the school, are enrolled in "Outside Reading," the total number

of books to be read numbering 354. An examination of these titles shows that the students have selected far better literature than we might expect from some of the assertions we hear about the reading habits of high-school pupils. It was thought at first that some of the books were selected because the pupil knew the story and felt that it would be easy to pass the test, but this has been disproved and we are confident that everyone, with possibly two exceptions, is doing conscientious reading. Table I shows the nineteen most popular books, and the percentage of students selecting them.

TABLE I

NINETEEN MOST POPULAR BOOKS

Titles	Number Selecting	Percentage Selecting
1. Huckleberry Finn	23	43
2. The Iron Woman	16	30
3. Tom Sawyer	14	26
4. The Call of the Wild	14	26
5. Black Rock	13	24
6. Short History of Oregon	12	22
7. Lorna Doone	11	20
8. Last of the Mohicans	11	20
9. The Little Minister	10	18
10. Kidnapped	10	18
11. Story of a Bad Boy	9	16
12. Tom Brown's School Days	9	16
13. White Fangs	9	16
14. Robinson Crusoe	8	14
15. Captains Courageous	8	14
16. House of the Seven Gables	8	14
17. Tragedy of Mary Stuart	7	12
18. The Spy	7	12
19. The Jungle Book	7	12

When the plan was announced in faculty meeting and to the student body one of the reasons given for the introduction of the course was the opportunity it afforded for the reading of vocational literature. Students were advised regarding certain books, if they were in doubt, but most of them made their own selections. Probably most of them chose their material for "pleasure," but Table III will show that some selected for both "pleasure and profit." In other words, the vocational books are being read to some extent. The list from which the students chose their reading did not contain as many vocational books as was intended, partly

TABLE II

TOTAL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUAL BOOKS, ARRANGED ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF TIMES SELECTED

	Times Selected	Authors	Titles
1.....	23	Clemens	Huckleberry Finn
2.....	16	Deland	The Iron Woman
3.....	14	Clemens	Tom Sawyer
4.....	14	London	The Call of the Wild
5.....	13	Connor	Black Rock
6.....	12	Johnson	Short History of Oregon
7.....	11	Blackmore	Lorna Doone
8.....	11	Cooper	Last of the Mohicans
9.....	10	Barrie	Little Minister
10.....	10	Stevenson	Kidnapped
11.....	9	London	White Fangs
12.....	9	Aldrich	Story of a Bad Boy
13.....	9	Hughes	Tom Brown's School Days
14.....	8	De Foe	Robinson Crusoe
15.....	8	Kipling	Captains Courageous
16.....	8	Hawthorne	House of the Seven Gables
17.....	7	Schiller	Tragedy of Mary Stuart
18.....	7	Cooper	The Spy
19.....	7	Kipling	The Jungle Book
20.....	6	Weaver	Vocations for Girls
21.....	6	Harrison	V. V.'s Eyes
22.....	5	Wescott	David Harum
23.....	5	Kipling	The Light That Failed
24.....	5	Dinsmore	Teaching a District School
25.....	5	Bunyan	Pilgrim's Progress
26.....	4	Earle	Child Life in Colonial Days
27.....	4	Black	Princess of Thule
28.....	4	Antin	Promised Land
29.....	4	Wiggins	Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm
30.....	4	Dickens	Oliver Twist
31.....	4	Anderson	Arabian Nights
32.....	4	Ollivant	Bob, Son of Battle
33.....	3	Wise	Recollections of Thirteen Presidents
34.....	3	Berry	Problems of the Elementary School
35.....	3	Custer	Boots and Saddles
36.....	3	Dickens	Tale of Two Cities
37.....	3	Hugo	Ninety-Three
38.....	3	Eggleston and Bruere	Work of the Rural School
39.....	3	Parkman	Oregon Trail
40.....	3	Rowe	Romance of Irish History
41.....	2	Irving	Knickerbocker's History of New York
42.....	2	Brontë	Jane Eyre
43.....	2	Waller	Wood Carver of 'Lympus
44.....	2	Hawthorne	Marble Faun
45.....	2	Shinn	Biography of a Baby
46.....	2	Lytton	Last Days of Pompeii
47.....	2	Thwaites	How George Rogers Clark Won the North West
48.....	2	Smith	Colonel Carter of Cartersville
49.....	2	Eggleston	A Rebel's Recollection

TABLE II—*Continued*

	Times Selected	Authors	Titles
50.....	2	Barrie	Peter and Wendy
51.....	2	Dressler	School Hygiene
52.....	2	Tarkington	The Turmoil
53.....	2	Deland	Old Chester Tales
54.....	1	Bryant	Selections from Bryant
55.....	1	Boone	Science of Education
56.....	1	Kingsley	The Cloister and the Hearth
57.....	1	Quick	Educational Reforms
58.....	1	Poe	Selected Tales
59.....	1		Victor of Salamis
60.....	1	Swift	Gulliver's Travels
61.....	1	Wilbur	Every Business Woman
62.....	1	Riis	The Making of an American
63.....	1		Indians of Today
64.....	1	Haskins	The Business of Mining
65.....	1	Dana	Two Years before the Mast
66.....	1		Fetters of Freedom
67.....	1	Maeterlinck	The Blue Bird
68.....	1	Haskins	The Story of the Soil
69.....	1		Musical Education
70.....	1		Alaska
71.....	1	Tucker	Life in Ancient Athens
72.....	1	Synge	History of Social Life in England
73.....	1	Haskins	The Immigrant
74.....	1	Irving	Sketch Book
75.....	1		How to Study Birds
76.....	1	Eliot	Adam Bede
77.....	1	Thackeray	Vanity Fair
78.....	1	Barton	Story of the Red Cross
79.....	1	Wallace	Ben Hur
80.....	1	Dewey	School and Society
81.....	1		Panama
82.....	1	Froebel	Education of Man

because no one was made responsible for that phase, except that each department gave specialized lists.

TABLE III

VOCATIONAL BOOKS BEING READ

Titles	No. Selecting	Titles	No. Selecting
1. Vocations for Girls.....	6	7. Education of Man.....	1
2. Teaching a District School....	5	8. Science of Education.....	1
3. Problems of the Elementary... School.....	3	9. Educational Reforms.....	1
4. Work of the Rural School.....	3	10. The Business of Mining.....	1
5. School Hygiene.....	2	11. Every Business Woman.....	1
6. School and Society.....	1	12. Musical Education.....	1

Twenty-six students, or 50 per cent of the number, are reading along this line, and of the 12 books selected eight are in the field of education. The pupils reading the latter belong to the normal training classes and are preparing to teach in rural schools.

Another year will see the work greatly extended, with the vocational aspect uppermost. It is hoped that we may be able to introduce pictures showing conditions in various occupations and to secure vocational lectures. It will doubtless be found necessary to have more supervision of the work and to give everyone two or more individual conferences before the course is completed.